ARBUTUS GROVE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

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Date: March 25/03

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Date: Mar 27/03

ARBUTUS GROVE PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Arbutus Grove Park is to protect a representative stand of arbutus trees. The arbutus (*Arbutus menziesii*) is the only native broadleaf evergreen tree in Canada. This unique tree has a limited range – it occurs in a narrow belt along the Pacific coast and it reaches the northern limits of its range in southwestern British Columbia and on Vancouver Island. It generally occurs within eight kilometres of the ocean and is found on sites that lack moisture, such as those with rocky or rapidly drained soils. Because it is shade intolerant, it typically occurs in clearings or on open rocky bluffs with other species such as Garry oak or Douglas-fir, oceanspray, Oregon grape, and baldhip rose.

The arbutus tree is of some conservation concern as it occurs entirely within a range that is under pressure of rapid urban development. Given that it is shade intolerant and its seedlings have difficulty regenerating under its own canopy, it is susceptible to colonizing by evergreens.

Secondary role

The **secondary** role is to provide a recreational opportunity in a natural setting. Arbutus Grove Park is located midway between Nanaimo and Parksville near Nanoose Bay and is adjacent to the Island Highway, although there is no road access to the park. The park has no facilities and is used by local hikers as a quiet nature viewing area.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Role of park in the protected areas system	➢ Determine the role of small sites towards the protection of under-represented variants and ecosections before possibly transferring the area outside of the protected areas system.
Impact of surrounding land uses	➢ Ensure boundaries are well marked.
Douglas-fir is rapidly colonizing the arbutus stand	➢ Monitor the arbutus stand and if the stand becomes endangered, implement a vegetation management plan.

Zoning

Special Feature Zone – covers the whole park (22 hectares). The objective of this zone is to protect and present significant natural or cultural features, resources, or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values. The arbutus stand is the focus of this park.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Minimal contribution (0.45%) to the representation of the Nanaimo Lowlands Ecosection. This ecosection is under represented in the protected areas system with only 1.4% of its area protected.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Minimal contribution (0.18%) to the representation of CDFmm, which is under-represented at 2.43%. Minimal contribution (0.11%) to the overall representation of CWHxm1, which is under represented at 2.07%.
Special Features	☒	Arbutus trees
Rare/Endangered Values	☐	None known at this time
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☐	None known at this time

Recreation

Representation		
backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☐	Not Applicable
travel corridor	☐	Not Applicable
local recreation	☒	Very low level of use
Special Opportunities	☐	None known at this time
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☒	Possible interpretation of significance of arbutus trees

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☐	Not Applicable
Special Feature	☒	Archaeological site DhSb-12

Other Management Considerations

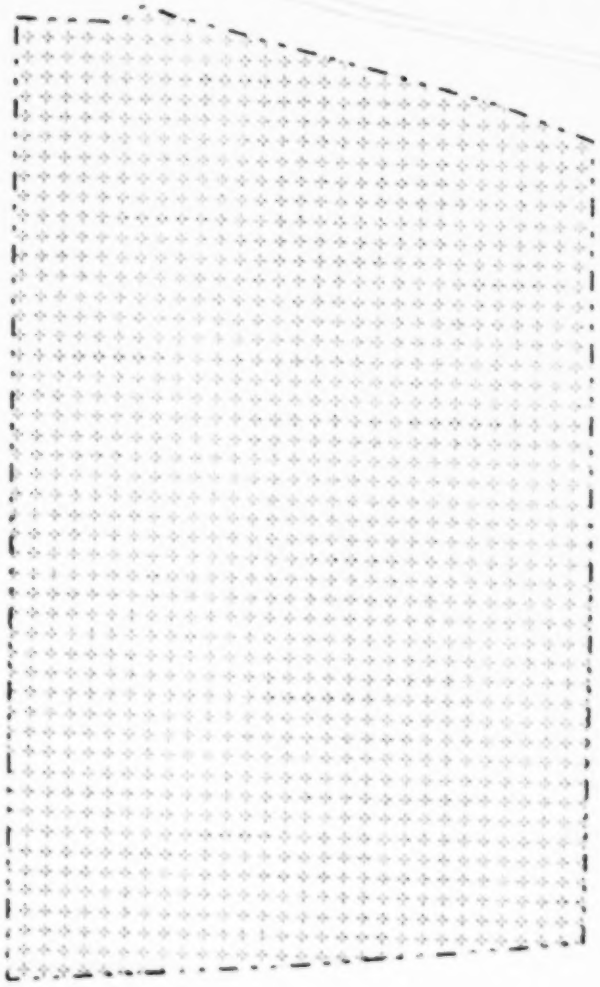
Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of protected areas in a popular destination area (includes Rathtrevor Beach, Little Qualicum Falls, Horne Lake Caves)
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	Not Applicable
Partnerships	☐	Not Applicable

Vulnerability	☒	Small size limits ability to protect the natural values. Isolated remnant that is vulnerable to development on all sides of its boundary. Colonization of the site by evergreens.
Relationship to other Strategies	☐	Not Applicable

Area: 22 hectares

Date of establishment: July 21, 1966

Zoning Map - Arbutus Grove Provincial Park



Special Feature

Protected Area Boundary